W5YI

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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Europe Weighs in on Amateur Radio Issues Before WRC-2003

The various countries of the world are busily working towards arriving at a position on the various agenda items for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference (ITU-R) to be held in Caracas, Venezuela from June 9 to July 4, 2003. The ITU WRC-2003 agenda includes a number of items of direct interest to the Amateur Radio community.

There are dozens of specialized telecommunications organizations promoting the needs of various interests such as aviation, broadcasting, maritime, satellite and other radiocommunication services. Formed in 1925, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), a federation of Amateur Radio societies, represents ham radio interests.

Many countries are also formed into Regional Telecommunications Organizations to facilitate the development of telecommunications in their geographical areas. By agreeing on the text and voting as a block, they have the ability to influence the outcome. The primary regional organizations are:

ITU Region 1 – CEPT

European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications, David Hendon, Chief Executive of the United Kingdom's Radiocommunciations Agency, is the President of CEPT. Region 1 includes: Europe, Africa, ex-USSR countries, Middle East (excluding Iran which is in ITU Region 3) and Mongolia.

CEPT, established in 1959 by 19 countries, has now expanded to 44 Member States essentially covering the whole geographical area of Europe.

CEPT members include: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the Vatican. It represents a large and very powerful block of nations.

CEPT deals exclusively with regulatory matters in the field of mail and telecommunications. One of its purposes is to develop and promote European common proposals (ECP).

ITU Region 2 – CITEL

Inter-American Telecommunications Commission – Chairman is Marc Girouard of Canada. Region 2 includes North, Central and South America including Hawaii, Johnston and Midway Islands.

CITEL has 34 Member States (including the United States) and over 200 Associate Members from the private sector. It operates under the auspices of the *Organization of American States* (OAS) with headquarters in Washington, DC. Its goal is to further telecommunications in the Americas.

ITU Region 3 - APT

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity – Chairman is R.

N. Agarwal of India. Region 3 includes the rest of Asia and Oceania. Established in 1979, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity with 31 Member States is a treaty-based regional communications development cooperation organization whose membership includes most of the Governments of the Asia-Pacific region. It is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand.

CEPT MEETING HELD IN OSLO, NORWAY

A Conference Preparatory Group meeting for WRC-2003 (CPG03) held by the *European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications* (CEPT) between February 19 and 22, 2002 resulted in a 184-page document outlining various European preliminary positions on issues before WRC-2003.

CEPT's Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) is the working group charged with developing a coordinated European position (called a European Common Proposal or ECP) for WRCs.

The following briefs and ECPs on WRC-2003 Agenda Item No. 1.7 and 1.23 were approved. (Some text has been edited for space and clarity.)

Agenda item 1.7   to consider issues concerning the amateur and amateur-satellite services

1.7.1   possible revision of Article S25;

Issue

The current content of Article S25 does not fully reflect the nature of the radio amateur service as we know it today. Accordingly the requirements of operational and technical skills of persons seeking to obtain a radio amateur license need to be updated. Also some other provisions of S25 need to be streamlined.

The mandatory requirement for testing of Morse code skill for those seeking to operate an amateur station below 30 MHz is expected to be the central topic of this agenda item. Morse code skill is nowadays not required in any other service. Therefore provisions should be made in S25 so that administrations may waive the mandatory morse code requirement.

Preliminary CEPT position

[1. Morse Code:] In order to give administrations the possibility to waive the requirement for mandatory morse code testing of those seeking to operate an amateur station below 30 MHz CEPT should propose a modification of S25.5 with the following text : Administrations shall determine whether or not a person seeking a license to operate an amateur station shall prove that he is able to send and receive correctly texts in Morse code signals. However there is still a need to verify the technical and operational qualifications of persons seeking to obtain a radio amateur license.

[2. Other issues:] Article S25 further contains a number of texts that were developed in the early days of radio communications. Several of these texts are not required any more. [CEPT proposes modifications in particular for the following issues:

- **S25.1** – the prohibition of international amateur communications and its notification to the ITU by an administration.;
- **S25.2 and addition of S25.2.A** – the content of amateur traffic and the concept of 'plain language';
- **S25.3 and S25.4** – the prohibition of international third party communications;
- **The contribution of radio amateurs to disaster mitigation** should be

recognized by the Radio Regulations.

In particular, CEPT objects the proposed mandatory incorporation of ITU-R M.1544 by reference. An ECP [European Common Proposal] has been developed to reflect the CEPT position.

Background

a) Morse code – Two years before WRC-97 administrations all over the world were approached with a request that the mandatory requirement of Morse code skill for radio amateurs should be removed. The same proposal was renewed before WRC-2000.

At the time of WRC-97 the radio amateur community was not in favor of the removal of the Morse code requirement. However, when preparing the agenda for WRC-2003, IARU supported the proposal that revision of Article S25 should be on the agenda.

The CEPT proposal to remove the mandatory requirement of Morse code skill does not mean that the use of Morse code as a means of communication should be abolished. It is expected that even after the removal of this requirement many amateurs will continue to use Morse code.

b) Other changes to S25 – The existing text of S25.1 may be considered to be unnecessary. In the past a number of administrations have notified the ITU that they do not allow radio amateurs to communicate with radio amateurs of other countries. However, such countries have afterwards issued licenses for radio amateurs who are allowed to establish contact with foreign amateurs. The notifications nevertheless have not been abrogated, probably simply because they were forgotten.

CEPT considers that if a country wishes to prohibit international communications from its own radio amateurs, that can be done solely by the decision of that administration, and the support of the Radio Regulations is not needed. The same relates to the international third party communications mentioned in S25.3.

For these reasons CEPT proposes the suppression of S25.1 and S25.4. A modification to S25.3 is further proposed so that an Amateur station may be used for transmitting [international] communications on behalf of third parties unless prohibited by the administration concerned.

The term 'plain language' used by S25.2 is confusing nowadays because 'plain language' does not seem to cover the use of different digital codes and protocols. A modification to S25.2 and an addition (S25.2.A) are intended to clarify this issue. The text in S25.2.A enables administrations to allow encoding of transmissions to meet a particular operational need. Such operational needs may occur when amateur stations are taking part in emergency communications on behalf of national authorities. Encoding is also needed when controlling amateur satellites.

The IARU has proposed that S25.6 should incorporate by reference recommendation ITU-R M.1544. CEPT should not support such a mandatory reference to ITU-R M.1544. CEPT may consider to propose the following text added to the present S25.6:

[The operational and technical qualifications may be verified taking into account the conditions under which the amateur station is going to be operated and the guidelines on theoretical knowledge in the most recent version of recommendation ITU-R M.1544.]

CEPT proposes to remove the S25.7 dealing with the maximum power of radio amateur stations. CEPT considers that it is up to national administrations to set the power levels for its radio amateur stations. CEPT also proposes to remove S25.8 dealing with frequency stability and spurious emissions.

Radio amateurs have contributed successfully to disaster mitigation communications. In order to encourage the training and abilities of radio amateurs for such events, CEPT proposes the addition of a new regulation S25.9.A.

VANITY CALL SIGN "HOLD UP" IS NOW OVER!

After more than a month of not issuing "Vanity" (amateur-selected) call signs (since February 1, 2002), the FCC opened the flood gates on March 7 and issued several hundred. Previously the latest call sign issued was filed on October 24, 2001. That date now has been extended to the first of December 2001.

In mid-October it had been taking as little as 18 days to issue a Vanity call sign. But that came to a screeching halt on October 18th when, due to Anthrax contamination, the federal government completely discontinued receiving all paper-document mail. Electronically-filed Amateur Radio license modifications (such as name and address changes), renewals, requests for duplicate licenses, and new or upgraded licenses were not affected and continued to be handled quickly.

Electronically-filed vanity call sign applications were an exception, however, since the FCC has a policy of processing both electronically-filed and paper-filed requests for Amateur station call signs selected by the user in parallel. This is because there is a limited number of preferential call signs and the FCC wants to give both paper and electronic filers an equal opportunity to obtain the same specific call sign.

On October 30th, the FCC temporarily suspended processing of all electronically-filed vanity applications to allow time for any paper-filed Vanity call sign application that had to be shipped out-of-state for Anthrax decontamination to be returned.

The plan was to resume all Vanity call sign processing once the paper vanity call sign applications were received back after disinfecting. At that time they would be coordinated with electronically-filed applications having the same receipt date. But that plan went awry!

Somehow, more than a hundred Vanity call sign applications – about two weeks worth – sent out for Anthrax sanitation disappeared and were never received back in Gettysburg. The FCC knew who had filed them since they had already received and processed the $12.00 regulatory fees. Many amateurs were annoyed by the lengthy delay but there as little that anyone could do but wait until the missing paper applications were refiled..

It took nearly 4 months to locate all Vanity call sign applicants and to reconstruct their paper-filed applications. The last paper-filed vanity call sign application was received on March 5th and the FCC began issuing call signs on March 7th from the backlog which now totaled more than 2,000. The final applicant took a very long time to locate. With the help of the ARRL, that finally happened during early March.

The delay is now over and the FCC is now be handling vanity call signs in large batches, possibly as large as a month's worth of applications at a time. It is expected that the backlog will be eliminated rather quickly.

• **By the way, my call W5YI is not a vanity call sign.** The vanity callsign program started in 1996. I have W7YI for nearly 30 years. W5YI (actually "5YI" before the advent of ITU country prefixes) belonged to the ham club at the engineering department of Rice Institute in Houston, Texas. (Now Rice University.) They also held W5YG which they still hold. Back in the early 1930's, call signs with two letter suffixes beginning with "Y" were arbitrarily assigned to major colleges and universities so that they could experiment with radio communications.

For example, among those still licensed are: W0YI=Iowa State University; W3YI=University of Pittsburgh; W3YA= Penn State College; W5YD=Mississipi State University; W7YB=Montana State University; W1YK=Worcester Polytechnic Institute; W5YM=University of Arkansas; W9YB=Purdue University; W3YP=Villanova University; W7YD=University of Washington; W8YX=University of Cincinnati; W6YU=San Mateo College; W7YH=Washington State University; W8YY=Michigan Technological University; W9YJ= Depauw University; W5YW=LSU at Baton Rouge; W6YX=Stanford University; W1YA= University of Maine; W5YJ= Oklahoma State University; W0YQ= University of Colorado; W9YT=University of Wisconsin; W5YF= Southern Methodist University; W6YL= San Jose State University; W0YG= University of Minnesota; W1YU=Yale University, W6YV= Univ. of Southern Calif.; W9YH=University of Illinois, ...etc.

I got W5YI when the FCC permitted applicants to chose their own call sign according to how long they had been at the Extra Class level.

• **Britain's Radiocommunications Agency (RA) has authorized its radio amateurs to use a "GQ" or "MQ" prefix** between June 1 and 30 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Queen Elizabeth ascended to the throne 50 years ago. British radioamateurs with call signs beginning with G will use GQ, those beginning with M, use MQ.

The RA has also authorized the "GB50" Special Event call sign (as in Great Britain 50th Anniversary) to be established on the grounds of Windsor Castle between May 29 and June 9. GB50 will operate on all bands (3.5 - 50 MHz) on CW, SSB, PSK31 and RTTY between 0700 and 2200 UTC daily. A special GB50 website has been established at: <http://www.gb50.com>.

The UK'S new Foundation (beginning) Amateur Radio license is proving to be very popular after only 3 months of existence. This license provides access to most HF amateur bands (all except 10 meters) with a maximum output power of 10 watts. Only commercially manufactured transmitters and kits can be used. Morse code proficiency is basically not needed. (To keep it legal, you simply look up the dot-dash sequences.)

The United Kingdom used to have two Amateur Radio societies. The *Radio Society of Great Britain* (RSGB) and the *United Kingdom Radio Society* (UKRS). The smaller UKRS closed down on February 19th.

CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Ultra-Wideband (UWB) Platform Streams MPEG-2 Movies At 10 Mbit/sec. Privately-held Xtreme-Spectrum, Inc. of Mountainview, CA is already demonstrating UWB technology for wireless digital video applications.

Ultra-wideband is a "zero-carrier" wireless technology that transmits an extremely low power signal over a wide swath of radio spectrum. Unlike conventional radio systems that operate within a relatively narrow bandwidth, i.e. Bluetooth, IEEE 802.11a and b, ultra-wideband operates across a wide range of frequency spectrum by transmitting a series of very narrow and low power pulses

The combination of broader spectrum, lower power and pulsed data means that ultra-wideband causes less interference than conventional narrowband radio solutions, and delivers wire-like performance in an indoor wireless environment.

"This makes ultra-wideband technology ideal for consumer electronics applications such as camcorders, laptops, DVDs, digital cameras, etc., " Xtreme-Spectrum said. "Ultra-wideband offers the ideal solution to the home market, because objects, walls, furniture or people – even if directly in the path of the two devices – won't disturb the video stream."

The firm (on March 4th) hooked up four DVD (digital video disk) players and broadcast four different MPEG-2 video streams running at 10 Mbps to four different flat panel displays simultaneously across the room using a single ultra-wideband connection. Without wires, UWB was able to broadcast the movies, in their entirety, with no interruption or degradation to the video and audio.

The demonstration which was open to the press showed that UWB is easily capable of transmitting multiple streams of digital video and audio within a typical home environment with wire-like viewing quality.

Previously, ultra-wideband was used primarily in military applications. However, the FCC approved ultra-wideband for commercial use on Feb. 14, 2002, allowing this technology to now be used in a variety of commercial applications from safety of life to radar to wireless communications.

The FCC believes that ultra-wideband devices will be able to operate in spectrum that is already occupied by existing radio services without causing interference.

Operating under the FCC's Part 15 rules (subject to certain frequency and power limitations) the devices will operate in the 3.1-10.6 GHz frequency band. In addition, the equipment must be designed to ensure that operation can only occur indoors or consist of hand-held peer-to-peer operation.

XtremeSpectrum said that their product development remains on schedule and that UWB consumer products could be available as early as Christmas 2003. More at: <www.xtremespectrum.com>.

EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

A software-defined radio (SDR) is a multipurpose upgradeable radio transceiver system that adapts to transmission and channel environments through software programming. Commercial software-defined radios are not yet available, but we are seeing products being introduced as an "SDR component" or "SDR-ready."

That simply means that the device's fundamental characteristics are deemed sufficient – or can be adapted – to handle a wide variety of operating frequencies, modulation schemes and bandwidths. ...Much like an "HDTV-ready" televison set can be upgraded to high definition though the addition of a separate tuner.

The electrical characteristics and radiation/reception pattern of a "smart" antenna array can be reconfigured with digital signal-processing (DSP). The idea of smart antennas is that they can be automatically adapted to current radio conditions ...such as maximizing antenna gain in the desired direction of a communication partner only.

Using adaptive technology, smart antennas can beam signals back in the same direction from which they received them thereby preventing power wastage. Smart antennas have the ability to differentiate between wanted and unwanted signals and tune out what they do not want to capture.

COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE

The looming merger of Hewlett-Packard and Compaq Computer will go through says Forrester, a leading independent research firm that analyzes the future of technology change and its impact on businesses, consumers, and society. "Without each other, HP and Compaq will be perennial also-rans," says Forrester. "In contrast, the combination offers a chance for greatness -- despite the potential for spectacular failure."

The proposed merger will create and an industry giant with nearly $90 billion in revenue. It also will also be the end of the HP desktop computer. All resources will be focused on the Compaq brand.

Best Buy, the electronics retailer is in the process of launching its own "high end" private label PC, something that big names like Computer City, Radio Shack, Circuit City and CompUSA have all discontinued. Best Buy's PC will be called the "vpr Matrix." (The 'v' is supposedly for value, 'p' equals performance, and 'r' stands for reliability.)

It currently sells the HP, Compaq, and Sony brands. Best Buy will gain shelf space to feature the Matrix when (and if) the HP/Compaq merger goes through and only the Compaq brand remain. But no matter what, Best Buy says it is going ahead with the Matrix line. Components will be made in Taiwan and China.

The "vpr Matrix" lineup are not cheap stripped down clones. Each of the three models will have 512 megs of memory and sport Intel Pentium 4 microprocessors. Pricing will be at $899, $1099 and $1299 without a monitor. ...slightly less than national brands but with more upgraded components.

Best Buy says the Matrix is a better customer value and carries a higher profit margin for them. A photo we saw of the Matrix PC looked very similar to a Dell. And you can expect to see a very big push for direct PC sales (where Dell is the industry leader) at: <www.bestbuy.com>.

More boxes out, less bucks in. Research firm *International Data Group* says 3 percent more personal computers or 125.5 million units will be sold worldwide this year after last year's 5.2 percent decrease, the first decrease ever in units sold. But total revenue is forecast to fall 7.9 percent due to lower priced PCs.

In the United States, where about one-third of all personal computers are sold, unit shipments are expected to rise 2.5 percent. For 2003, IDG predicts PC shipment growth rising to 10.9 percent.

Trivia question. What was the best selling PC of all time? Answer:

The Commodore 64. It had a large memory capacity, low cost floppy disks and peripherals and color graphics. It could use a TV for a monitor and there were tons of available software.

GADGETS & GIZMOS

Computer engineers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology have constructed "Robo-Scribe" – a remotely-controlled robot journalist – for use in dangerous wartime zones. The reporting machine comes with everything needed to conduct interviews and to safely root out the latest news story.

The Afghan eXplorer, as it is affectionately known, is a small (only 3-by-2 foot) 4-wheel-drive electric (solar-powered) vehicle. The $10,000 device comes with a digital video camera able to shoot under all lighting conditions. It also has digital audio recording capabilities and an intercom system for remote interviews.

A 10 kbps, two-way voice/data satellite uplink allows compressed voice and video information to be relayed between the robot and mission control.

The robot has a video screen and a microphone at the end of a 4-foot pole, so that the person being interviewed can see the interviewer at eye level. It sort of looks like a child's wagon with the solar panels being located on top of the electronics in the wagon bed. A whip antenna is on the rear with the camera. mike and screen on the front. The wheels are large enough so that it can travel over rough terrain and climb stairs. Navigation is provided through the global positioning system (GPS) and an electronic compass.

INTERNET & WORLD WIDE WEB

The Federal Trade Commission has shut down a website that was selling fraudulent ".usa" and ".brit" domain names at $59 each. After September 11, the company – which operated under different names such as TLD Networks, Ltd. – launched an aggressive spam campaign in the United States to advertise domain names ending in ".usa."

Based in London, England, "the <www.dotusa.com> operation used deceptive spam messages and appeals to patriotism to sell Web addresses that don't work," the FTC said.

In papers filed in federal court on February 28, the FTC charged that many consumers had purchased multiple bogus domain names. The assets of the firm have been frozen to preserve money for consumer reimbursement.

Officials from the United Kingdom's *Office of Fair Trading* and the *Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers* (ICANN) – the body charged with administering domain names – assisted the FTC. The agency said defendants pocketed more than $1 million from their illegal scheme in less than a year.

Subject lines in the spam e-mail read, "Be Patriotic! Register .USA Domains." The text said: "The latest domain name extension has arrived .USA!!! It's the fresh, new, exciting web address that is taking the world by storm. Who wants to be .com when you can now be .USA. Register your .USA domain name today exclusively at: http://www.dotusa.com." The website is no longer operational.

Charging for online greeting cards is not going well! The Excite@Home portal (which went bankrupt and shut down on Feb. 20, 2002) sold the popular e-mail BlueMountain.com greeting card site to American Greetings.com for $35 million in cash last fall ...95% less than the $780 million they had paid for it!

American Greetings saw traffic to its e-card sites (they also own Egreetings.com, and BeatGreets.com) fall during the Christmas holiday season after instituting fees for sending cards. AmericanGreetings.com had a 10% decrease in visitors, while its largest Web site, Bluemountain.com, nose-dived 22%.

Firms still offering free e-cards (such as Hallmark.com and USAGreetings.com) saw their traffic surge.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

The missing Vanity call sign applications appear to have been located! The FCC sent out a *Public Notice* on March 8, 2002 announcing that it has found some more unprocessed mail.

"The Commission possesses a large volume of unprocessed mail received from USPS during late January 2002, as well as an additional quantity received in late October and early November 2001 following the discovery of anthrax contamination on Capitol Hill and at certain USPS mail processing facilities. All of this mail has been commercially cleansed and is now being processed for delivery within the Commis-

sion. We expect the processing and delivery of all backlogged mail to be completed by March 29, 2002," FCC said. The FCC re-emphasized that it prefers that all applications be filed electronically where possible.

Vice President Dick Cheney recently unveiled the newly redesigned FirstGov: a federal government portal that provides access to other government sites. According to Cheney: "It's an attempt to remedy one of government's oldest problems: the slow, confusing way it responds to the public." Forrester Research says the face-lift was successful!

"Well-organized, despite the enormous diversity of the underlying information, the site clearly defines three primary paths: 1) citizens interacting with government; 2) business interacting with government; and 3) governments interacting with government. See: <www.firstgov.gov>.

You can even change your address online with the U.S. Postal Service and look up zip codes from the home page.

The FCC has announced that reorganization of several of the agency's bureaus will go into effect March 25, 2002. Among them is the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau which oversees Amateur Radio. Ham radio is unaffected by the change, but WTB gets to handle all regulatory issues related to the *Instructional Television Fixed Service* (ITFS) and the *Multipoint Distribution Service* (MDS)/Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service (MMDS).

ITFS is allotted 120 MHz of spectrum in the 2 GHz band. ITFS licensees make extensive use of the spectrum to provide formal classroom instruction, distance learning, and videoconference capability to a wide variety of educational users throughout the nation.

MDS/MMDS is allotted up to 82 MHz of spectrum in the 2 GHz band. MDS/MMDS is a commercial service that has generally been used for the transmission of data and video programming to subscribers. These services were previously administered by the Commission's former Mass Media Bureau.

The other bureaus affected by the reorganization are: Media Bureau (formerly the Cable Services and Mass Media Bureaus); Wireline Competitition Bureau (formerly Common Carrier Bureau); Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (formerly Consumer Information Bureau); International Bureau; Enforcement Bureau;

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau; and Office of Legislative Affairs (formerly Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs).

The Commission also announced the launch of a new web site on the FCC's reform efforts, which can be found at: <www.fcc.gov/fcc_reform>.

The Wall Street Journal reports that the Internal Revenue Service is clamping down on holders of offshore credit cards. It works like this. People are creating sham corporations in places like the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands to hide their identity. Then the corporation obtains a credit card from a local bank and opens an account. Unreported income is placed into the account, thereby both hiding that sum from the IRS and avoiding taxes on the interest.

The card is then used for purchases which are paid from the corporate account, or the bank simply deducts the money itself. In some cases, the cardholder never even gets a monthly bill, leaving no incriminating paper trail.

Credit card companies are being ordered to turn over records from people who pay their bills through banks located in offshore tax havens. Taxpayers involved in the scam face back taxes, stiff penalties and possibly criminal charges. There are 595 banks in the pint-sized Cayman Islands ...more than 400 in the Bahamas.

Be leery of credit cards where all transactions and bank statements are kept in offshore banks. For a real eye-opener, enter the words "offshore tax havens" into a Web search engine.

Hate getting those telemarketing sales pitches just as you're sitting down to dinner ...prime time for telemarketers from more than 79,000 call centers nationwide? Texas is now among the more than 20 states with a law covering unsolicited telephone calls made by autodialers.

The *Telemarketing Disclosure and Privacy Act* has enabled the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to implement a statewide "Do Not Call List" for residential customers who wish to stop telemarketing calls to their homes.

Customers in Texas now have the opportunity to add their names, addresses and telephone number to two "No Call Lists": a statewide "Do Not Call List" and an "Electric No Call List." By placing their names, addresses and numbers on

these lists, customers identify themselves as someone who does not want to receive telemarketing calls.

There is a registration charge of $2.25 for each residential phone number to be included on the "Do Not Call List" which will remain on this list for three years.

The second list, initiated from electric restructuring legislation, prevents calls only from Retail Electric Providers (REPs) and telemarketers calling about electric utility service. There is a registration fee of $2.55 for each number placed on the "Electric No Call List" for five years. (But you can get on both lists for five years for the combined cost of $4.80.)

Consumers can sign up online at: <www.TexasNoCall.com> or use the printable registration form to register by mail. The PUC will operate and maintain the databases of both "No Call Lists" under a contract with a professional services firm.

Telemarketers must purchase the list on a CD or download from <www.TexasNoCall.com> with payment by a credit card. The lists will be updated and published quarterly on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. Telemarketers are required to update their "Do Not Call" lists from the Texas "No Call Lists" database each quarter.

The first quarterly list becomes available April 1, 2002. Telemarketers who subscribe to the list have 60 days from the date of this list to update their internal databases to remove customer numbers and stop calling customers who have registered in the database. Each violation carries a $1,000 penalty.

The "No Call Lists" do not apply to companies that have an established business relationship with a customer; to holders of state licenses (for example – insurance agents, real estate agents, securities brokers), to non-profit organizations and charities ...or if the call is not made by an automated telephone dialing system.

Telemarketing is a $668 billion industry. The Federal Trade Commission wants to create a national "do not call" registry, making it illegal for telemarketers to call anyone on that list.

The so-called "digital divide" is closing, but still exists. Funded through a telephone surcharge, the federal e-rate program has helped get more than 95 percent of public libraries and 98 percent of public schools connected to the Internet.

The U.S. Dept. of Commerce finds that while overall home access has reached 44 percent of the U.S. population last year, minorities and lower-income Americans were less likely to have it. Half of all blacks and Hispanics who use the Internet at public libraries can't log on from home.

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

Past QCWA president, John "Jack" Kelleher, W4ZC of Silver Spring, Maryland died on February 28, 2002. He was 87 years old and had been in poor health. He was first licensed as a ham radio operator some 70 years ago as a teenager. Funeral was held on March 4 with interment in Toms River, NJ. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that memorial contributions be made to the Max Jacobsen and John Kelleher QCWA Family scholarship, c/o QCWA, 159 E. 16th Ave, Eugene OR 97401-4017. *(Washington Post, March 2)*

Our European correspondent has advised us thatthe Swiss *USKA (Union Schweizerischer Kurzwellen-Amateure)* has voted to eliminate Morse testing at WRC-2003. The USKA is the national ham radio society in Switzerland. At an IARU meeting, 25 USKA clubs voted to give up the Morse test, only 4 wanted to retain with 1 abstention.

It is also reported that the BAKOM (Swiss government) plans at least to open parts of the 10 meter band without Morse testing in the event that WRC-2003 does not cancel the test.

In January 2000, the United Kingdom allowed certain Amateur Radio analog voice FM repeaters to be transported (linked) via the Internet on an experimental basis "subject to a future review." Permission was granted to only to a few specific stations.

Internet repeater linking permits radio systems separated by long distances to be joined without the use of expensive leased lines, UHF radio links, satellites, or controllers. International QSOs on VHF/UHF are commonplace.

One of the main aims of the experiment was to increase activity on British ham radio repeaters.

A provision was also included for the linking of mailboxes, simplex voice gateways and remote control of repeaters using non-amateur networks.

The UK's Radiocommunications

Agency is now conducting that review. The RA wants input by April 26, 2002 from repeater owners and radioamateurs on the following issues:

- Has the experiment been a success, a critical analysis of good and not so good points?
- Are the bands and frequencies chosen appropriate, should changes be made? (Frequencies authorized are in the 2 meter and 70-cm band at 145, 431 a d 434 MHz.)
- Internet links must be constantly attended while active, what are the difficulties associated with that requirement?
- One link (Sheffield, England) was granted unattended operation; how has use of that link differed in practice?
- What abuse has been noted and what action was taken, e.g. by the link attendant?
- What usage and demand has been noted?
- What pressure has there been for the provision of new facilities in areas not currently served?
- What pressure is there for links with other countries or is the usage predominantly inter-UK?

In a bulletin sent out by the ARRL, the League said it is taking a "wait-and-see approach" on the FCC's recent limited approval of ultra-wideband (UWB) devices. "The largely untested technology has been touted by proponents as a means to provide high-speed wireless data connections as well as for such applications as object-penetrating imaging – all while using spectrum occupied by existing services and without creating interference."

The ARRL – as well as many other users of the radio spectrum – are skeptical. Some of the frequencies above 3.1 GHz approved operating level are shared with Amateur Radio on a secondary basis.

The League said it would be field testing production models of UWB devices and ascertaining their impact on ham radio communications as they become available.

FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement

Timothy A. Dreas KE4GDX (Vienna, VA) has had his General Class Amateur Radio license canceled due to his failure to retake the license examinations prior to January 30, 2002 as ordered by the FCC.

Adrian P. Oakes KB8GRJ (Xenia, OH) has been advised by the FCC

that it is declining to become involved in a complaint he lodged against the W8BI ATV operation of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association.

It seems that DARA was operating on "his" 421.250 MHz output frequency. The frequency coordinator (Ohio Area Repeater Council) said, however, that it does not coordinate ATV frequencies, only "registers" them. DARA uses the frequencies only 20 to 45 minutes per week and makes repeater codes available so that anyone who might receive interference could shut off the ATV repeater. Furthermore, DARA is willing to adjust the times it uses the frequencies to accommodate other ATV users.

The FCC said "anyone can use 'your' frequencies so long as no harmful interference occurs."

GPU Energy Corp., (Morristown, NJ) has been advised that their utility company is causing harmful radio interference to several New Jersey radioamateurs. The FCC pointed out that "incidental" interference may not be caused by Part 15 devices to the operation of an authorized radio station and that the offending device may not resume until the harmful radiation has been corrected.

The complainants have been unable to work through the utility firm's complaint resolution process. "...unresolved problems may be a violation of FCC rules and could result in a monetary forfeiture for each occurrence," FCC said. The utility company was urged to contact the RFI desk at the ARRL for assistance.

Richard E. Howell NY4X (Greer, SC) has been advised that an uncoordinated repeater using his call sign (with permission) is actually owned by a John A. Parker AG4AZ, is causing interference to KU4OL, a coordinated repeater. Parker requested 60 days to obtain coordination (from November 2001) but the coordination has not been obtained. The NY4X repeater has been ordered shut down until either coordination is obtained or a detailed, specific interference prevention plan is sent to the FCC. Failure to shut down could result in license revocation and a fine of up to $7,500. A similar letter was sent to John A. Parker, Jr. AG4AZ, Brevard, NC.

Jeffrey L. Bible K4MFD (Midway, TN) filed a complaint with the FCC last December alleging that the W4WC Andrew Johnson ARC repeater was causing interference to his repeater. Bible says

that the W4WC repeater effectively lost its coordination when it moved its location to a TV tower near his K4MFD repeater. The Southeastern Repeater Association said the W4WC relocation was within the bounds it allows. Therefore, the FCC has declined to intervene in the matter. The FCC reminded Bible that repeater frequencies are "coordinated" and "...not assigned or allocated for the exclusive use of a particular licensee."

Scott E. Kamm, NØUGN (Waterbury, NE) was previously warned by the FCC concerning repeater interference and the operation of improper radio equipment. His response was unsigned and undated and is being returned to him for amendment. The FCC also wants Kamm to respond to the allegation that he provided transmitting equipment to an unlicensed minor and instructed him how to program the radio to operate on the Marine Band and other frequencies outside the Amateur allocation.

Wendell D. Peterson K6POU (Walnut Creek, CA) was notified last November that (1) his repeater was operating with an abnormally wide passband and with signal spurs and (2) for reportedly long periods of time with no apparent control operator.

The FCC said the bandwidth problems have not been corrected and interference is being caused to the WA6GYD (145.35 MHz), AB6CR (145.35 MHz) and K6LI (145.31 MHz) repeater systems.

Sec. 97.101(a) requires Amateur equipment to be operated "in accordance with good engineering and good Amateur practice." The FCC ordered the repeater shut down unless the repeater bandwidth problems are corrected. Failure to respond properly will result in enforcement action.

Michael E Horn KB8GDF (Lenore, WV), Kenneth E Brown KF8HL (Davin, WV), and Carl E. Tussey KB4UCE (S. Williamson, KY) were advised in January 2001 that their their KF8HL (145.39 MHz) repeater was causing interference to the coordinated Portsmouth Radio Club KC8FKP repeater operating on the same frequency. The FCC (in Nov. 2001) reopened the case since the repeater had not kept its coordination paperwork up to date. The FCC has now determined that the KF8HL repeater is not coordinated and is responsible to eliminate the interference to KC8FKP. The owners are to advise the FCC within 20 days what remedial action is being taken.

DAYTON HAMVENTION NAMES 2002 AWARD WINNERS

The Dayton HamVention has named Radio Amateur Information Network founder Alanson "Hap" Holly, KC9RP, as its 2002 Radio Amateur of the Year.

Holly, who lives in Des Plaines, Illinois, has been licensed since 1965. He began his ham radio informational programming career in 1984 on a local Chicago Area repeater. This eventually led him to become founder, moderator and producer of the weekly *Radio Amateur Information Network's* "RAIN Report", an audio news and feature magazine aimed at radio amateurs. <http://www.rainreport.com>.

RAIN programming is distributed to hundreds of repeaters across the country via a telephone dial-up line, the rainreport.com website, by a subscription tape service and broadcast over the WA0RCR weekly 160 meter net.

Originally licensed in Escondido, California at age 14, Holly who has been blind since age 7 served as a phone-patch station and net control for the famed WESTCARS traffic net until 1970.

Hap met his wife-to-be while he was teaching a class in non-visual perception to high school students at a summer camp in Buena Vista, Colorado. The two were married in August of 1976. Stephanie, who is sighted, received her ham ticket and KA9WKD callsign in 1986.

A HamVention news release called Holly "an inspiration to licensed radio amateurs, non-hams and the visually impaired and sighted individuals worldwide."

This years HamVention Technical Excellence award winner is Alan Waller, K3TKJ, of Laurel, Delaware.

Waller was chosen for his work that lead to the interfacing the Internet to Amateur Radio.

First licensed in 1961, Waller combined his decades-long love for Amateur Radio and a burgeoning interest in the then-new Internet to design and manage the www.qsl.net and www.qth.net web sites. That was back in 1993.

Since that time, Alan Waller's web sites have come to serve the needs of tens of thousands of ham radio operators worldwide by providing a vast technical reference platform, an electronic mail service, web page hosting services, and links to thousands of other ham radio related sites.

And in the true spirit of the Amateur Radio, Waller's initial work utilized leading edge experimentation to see what could be done with the technology then available. This has developed into a mature, reliable service to the world wide ham radio community.

DAYTON HAMVENTION 2002 AWARD WINNERS
Radioamateur of the Year: "Hap" Holly, KC9RP
Technical Excellence Award: Alan Waller, K3TKJ
Special Achievement Award: Owen Garriot W5LFL and Tony England, W0ORE

A pair of space exploring hams have been named as co-recipients of the 2002 HamVention Special Achievement Award. Former NASA astronauts **Owen Garriott, W5LFL, and Tony England, W0ORE,** are being honored for paving the way for manned ham radio operations from the space shuttles that has made ham radio a permanent part of man's exploration of space.

Owen Gariott, W5LFL was first. On November 28, 1983, Garriott, was launched into space aboard the space ship Columbia for the STS-9 mission. It was the Spacelab 1 mission and Garriott brought along the first Amateur Radio station on a crew-tended space vehicle. It was a simple Motorola hand held transceiver connected to a special antenna designed to fit in the Space Shuttle's window.

Three days later, W5LFL came on the air and hams across the United States and around the world were witness to a historic radio transmission:

Owen Garriott W5LFL: "This is W5LFL in Columbia. W5LFL in Columbia orbiting the Earth at an altitude of 135 nautical miles passing over the U.S. West Coast and calling CQ."

The success of Garriott's mission lead to the development of SAREX – the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment. And, over the years, SAREX permitted hundreds of youngsters in classrooms around the world to speak directly with astronauts in space.

W0ORE flew into space on the shuttle Challenger in 1985. It was Mission 51F, Spacelab 2. In addition to the 2 meter FM voice gear, Tony England also had with him the first ever ham television station to go into space.

That flight also marked another first. The first ever two-way slow scan ham radio television contact -- to and from space. The SSTV was so successful that NASA gave very serious consideration to a permanent installation on all shuttles for back up communications.

More important, the early on-orbit operations by Own Garriott W5LFL and Tony England W0ORE made possible the thousands of educational contacts between children in school classrooms and the crews flying in space. First, on board the shuttles, and now as a permanent part of the International Space Station.

Hap Holly KC9RP, Alan Waller K3TKJ, Owen Garriott W5LFL and Tony England W0ORE will receive their award plaques at the HamVention Awards Banquet slated for Saturday evening, May 18th at the Nutter Center in Dayton, Ohio. The 2002 edition of the Dayton HamVention also marks its 50th Anniversary. It is the world's largest ham radio gathering and trade show.

1.7.2   review of the provisions of Article S19 concerning the formation of call signs in the amateur services in order to provide flexibility for administrations;

Issue

Article S19 limits the issuance of amateur call signs. For example, S19.49 prohibits certain call sign combinations commencing with a digit. S19.68 is also considered too restrictive as it does not allow administrations to issue special call sign combinations for special occasions.

Preliminary CEPT position

- Suppress S19.49. This would remove the restriction for some country identifiers.
- Modification to S19.68 to allow four trailing characters in amateur radio call signs.
- Further an addition to S19.69 (S19.69.A) is proposed to allow administrations to waive the requirement for not more than four trailing characters in special occasions.
- Addition of S19.82A to cover the identification of amateur and experimental stations using radiotelephony.

Background

Many administrations have occasionally issued temporary call signs that are not in accordance with the Radio Regulations, e.g. QQ2000ZZZ. CEPT proposes to modify S19.68, to allow four trailing characters. This would expand the number of possible call sign combinations considerably in routine call signs. Nevertheless, the call sign type QQ2000ZZZ would still not be allowable. The addition of S19.69A allows the temporary use of more than four trailing characters in special occasions such as international or national championships, conferences, anniversaries, celebrations, etc. One example is the Millenium change to year 2000. The word temporary should be regarded to mean not more than one year.

CEPT proposes to add S19.82A regarding the insertion of amateur and experimental stations into section IV (identification of stations using radiotelephony). Apparently amateur and experimental stations have been missing from this section because of omission.

Draft ECP on Agenda Item 1.7 -Amateur Services
Source: document CPG03(2002)09
DRAFT EUROPEAN COMMON PROPOSALS
ARTICLE 25
Amateur services
Section I – Amateur service

To be eliminated (Suppressed).
25.1   § 1   Radiocommunications between amateur stations of different countries shall be forbidden if the administration of one of the countries concerned has notified that it objects to such radiocommunications.

25.2   § 2   1)   Transmissions between amateur stations of different countries shall be limited to messages conforming to amateur service activities as defined in No. S1.56.

25.2.A   2)   Transmissions between amateur stations shall not be encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except with the authority of the relevant administration granted to meet a particular operational need.

25.3   3)   An amateur station may be used for transmitting [international] communications on behalf of third parties unless prohibited by the administration concerned.

To be eliminated (Suppressed).
25.4   3)   The preceding provisions may be modified by special

arrangements between the administrations of the countries concerned.

25.5   § 3   1)   Administrations shall determine whether or not a person seeking a license to operate an amateur station shall prove that he is able to send correctly texts in Morse code signals.

25.6   2)   Administrations shall take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate the apparatus of an amateur station. [The operational and technical qualifications may be verified taking into account the conditions under which the amateur station is going to be operated and the guidelines on theoretical knowledge in the most recent version of recommendation ITU-R M.1544.]

Editor's Note: *Both France and Sweden wanted the above section in square brackets deleted since it might be interpreted that these guidelines represent a firm obligation in some countries.*

To be eliminated (Suppressed).
25.7   § 4   The maximum power of amateur stations shall be fixed by the administrations concerned, having regard to the technical qualifications of the operators and to the conditions under which these stations are to operate.

25.8   § 5   1)   All the general rules of the Constitution, the Convention and of these Regulations shall apply to amateur stations. In particular, the emitted frequency shall be as stable and as free from spurious emissions as the state of technical development for such stations permits.

25.9   2)   During the course of their transmissions, amateur stations shall transmit their call sign at short intervals.

25.9.A   Administrations are advised to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in the event of a disaster.

Section II – Amateur-satellite service

25.10   § 6   The provisions of Section I of this Article shall apply equally, as appropriate, to the amateur-satellite service.

25.11   § 7   Space stations in the amateur-satellite service operating in bands shared with other services shall be fitted with appropriate devices for controlling emissions in the event that harmful interference is reported in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 15. Administrations authorizing such space stations shall inform the Bureau and shall ensure that sufficient earth command stations are established before launch to guarantee that any harmful interference which might be reported can be terminated by the authorizing administration (see No. 22.1).

Revised draft CEPT Brief on WRC-03 agenda item 1.23

Agenda item 1.23: To consider realignment of the allocations to the amateur, amateur-satellite and broadcasting services around 7 MHz on a worldwide basis, taking into account Recommendation 718 (WARC-92).

Issue

This allocation and compatibility problem remains unresolved for decades. The ITU Recommendation 718 itself has already been awaiting implementation for 9 years. There is a need to satisfy this Recommendation and reasons stated therein such as different allocations in ITU Regions, large disparity in power levels between amateur and broadcasting services and consequential incompatibility. In addition, other reasons are:

- to meet the ITU objective of harmonization of allocations on a world-wide basis;
- to ensure globally harmonized, satisfactory spectrum access around 7 MHz for the amateur, broadcasting, fixed and mobile services;
- to remove the long lasting uncertainty concerning the future of this part of the spectrum to facilitate planning and efficient spectrum utilization, and to prevent proliferation of provisional solutions under RR No 4.4.

Preliminary CEPT Position

1. CEPT supports the realignment. The realignment should involve the minimum necessary shift in allocation blocks in order to limit the economic impact on users.

2. The sharing of frequency bands by amateur and broadcasting services on a regional or inter-regional basis is undesirable and should therefore be avoided.

3. The CEPT supports a globally harmonized allocation of 300 kHz to the amateur service, that could partly be shared with the fixed and land-mobile services.

4. CEPT supports a globally harmonized allocation of a block of 250 kHz to the broadcasting service.

5. CEPT supports the view that consequential changes in the allocations around 7 MHz shall take into account the need of the fixed and mobile services operating in this frequency range and shall be made only on a balanced basis between all services involved in the process. Within this process, the upgrading of the secondary land mobile service to a primary status should also be considered.

Background

The historically harmonized allocations around 7 MHz suffered from rapidly growing political tensions at the Cairo 1938 Conference and these have been arranged differently in ITU Regions. This caused loss of spectrum by the amateur service in Regions 1 & 3 and led to interregional incompatibility between services. Further differences arose at the Atlantic City 1947 Conference. Attempts for harmonization at WARC-79 and WARC-92 failed to solve this problem to the satisfaction of any service. There is an existing incompatibility problem reflected in Recommendation 718 (WARC-92) and Resolution 641, and unsatisfied spectrum requirements.

The present spectrum situation around 7 MHz is highly unsatisfactory. To satisfy this agenda item, elements below shall be taken into consideration:

- inadequate amount of spectrum available to the amateur service in Regions 1 & 3;
- incompatibility between the amateur service in Region 2 and the broadcasting service in Regions 1 & 3 between 7100 and 7300 kHz;
- inadequate amount of spectrum for the broadcasting service in the range 4 – 10 MHz in general including an inadequate amount of spectrum for the broadcasting services around 7 MHz in ITU Region 2;
- the "generic" fixed/mobile spectrum requirements of governmental users in the range 4 – 12 MHz, including the importance of land-mobile service for military use.

The fixed, land mobile and amateur allocations around 7 MHz support many important activities, including those with a humanitarian and disaster relief dimension. The characteristics of these services are such that some sharing of allocations may be feasible. The needs of the broadcasting service should also be respected.

The amateur community stated its requirement as 300 kHz globally harmonized exclusive allocation, preferably 7000-7300 kHz; it is also inclined to accept partial shift of allocation, not excluding some sharing, to facilitate the realignment process. This requirement is stimulated by the ongoing process of relaxing the Morse-code proficiency requirement (inter alia CEPT REC T/R61-02) and consequential large increase in amateur population entitled to use HF bands.

The continued feeling of dissatisfaction at the provisional character of the spectrum situation around 7 MHz does not motivate users towards effective long range spectrum planning. It also triggers interim provisional solutions, such as local arrangements under No. S4.4 that could complicate the implementation of future realignment.

Based on WARC-79 & WARC-92 experience and the global nature of the issue, the widest possible consensus prior to WRC-03 is essential. There are ongoing studies in response to Recommendation 718 (WARC-92) in both ITU-R (SG8 & SG6), CEPT (WGFM PT40) and Regions 2 & 3. Progress of these studies is promising.

From these studies it can be derived that:

1. Any solution requiring sharing of spectrum between amateur and broadcasting services is not desirable, since experience has shown that this is unacceptable in the long run;

2. Some movement in frequency of the allocation to the amateur services around 7 MHz may be acceptable;

3. A reduction of the amount of contiguous spectrum allocated to the broadcasting service in the 7 MHz band is unacceptable to broadcasters, but there is flexibility with regard to theactual location of this band, taking due account of the availability of receivers for thebroadcasting service;

4. Attention should be given to the spectrum requirements of the land mobile service below 7 MHz;

5. The band 6 765-7 000 kHz has been identified as essential for supporting fixed service operations of all types;

6. Sharing between the amateur service and the fixed and mobile services is feasible;

7. The realignment should involve the minimum necessary shift in allocation blocks in order to limit the economic impact on users;

8. Dynamic frequency sharing or real time frequency management is a useful tool for providing communication circuits that are not otherwise possible because of interference constraints.

[The frequency realignment around 7 MHz will inevitably result in changes to the allocations for the broadcasting, fixed and mobile services in the range 6 – 8 MHz. In order to make the changes acceptable to these services, and to ensure an orderly transition, an implementation date needs to be defined such that the majority of the changes can be accommodated within the normal timescales applied to the maintenance and renewal of equipment and infrastructure. There will also be substantial implications regarding receiver design. Without making any assumptions of the location and extent of the broadcasting band above 7 300 kHz, it is clear that many receivers will no longer provide adequate tuning coverage for the new broadcasting band. The present circumstances do however provide a perfect opportunity to associate the band allocation changes with the advancement of digital modulation techniques for broadcasting. Although modern transmitters can be adapted to accommodate digitally modulated emissions, this is not possible for modern receivers - meaning that owners will have to consider replacement.]

CEPT envisions the following 7 MHz allocations to the Amateur and Short Wave Broadcasting Services.

6950 – 7500 MHz – Allocation to Services		
Region 1	**Region 2**	**Region 3**
6.950 – 7.000 MHz (All ITU Regions)	AMATEUR FIXED LAND MOBILE	
7.000 – 7.200 MHz (All ITU Regions)	AMATEUR AMATEUR SATELLITE	
7.200 – 7.250 MHz (All ITU Regions)	AMATEUR FIXED LAND MOBILE	
7.250 – 7.500 MHz (All ITU Regions)	BROADCASTING	